திட்டவட்டமாக நான் சொல்லுகிறேன். இஞ்சினியர்கள் சேதமாகவில்லை என்றும் அப்படி கெட்டுப்போகவில்லை என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். தார் வழிந்துபோனாலும் அது சேதமாகக்கூடிய பொருள் இல்லை. மறுபடியும் அதை எடுத்து உபயோகப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளலாம்.' (சிரிப்பு.)

Repairs to Mumgeth bridge in Chirakkal taluk

* 2204 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have proposed to repair the Mumgeth bridge in Erinav amsam in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, when the repairing work will begin?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) The Government have not proposed to repair the bridge under reference.

" (*b*) The question does not arise."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" A bridge is very necessary there. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether Government have received any representation from the local people in this respect and may I also know why Government decided that the bridge is not necessary there? May I know whether Government would take steps to construct a bridge there? "

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Government did not refuse to take up the construction of the bridge. The district board is not co-operating. There seems to be some trouble between the committee and the district board. Now Government are trying to see that the work is done by the Government themselves."

Educational and other benefits for prisoners in jails

* 2205 *Q.*—Sri M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the measures adopted for the general education of prisoners in the State; and

(*b*) the amount spent on this account last year?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) In every jail, there is a school for imparting elementary education to prisoners and also a library. The age-limit for compulsory elementary education is now 40. The Superintendent of the Jail examines the progress of the prisoners' proficiency periodically. Prisoners are permitted to read up to 9 p.m. wherever facilities exist. Periodicals in the regional languages of the State are supplied to them. All other reasonable facilities are also given to prisoners who are eager to further their education. In the Central Jails at Cannanore and Tiruchirappalli, the scheme of imparting literacy education under the adult education method to prisoners with a sentence of not less than six months instead of two or three

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years as before, has been introduced as an experimental measure, by utilizing the services of literate prisoners in those jails who are coached for the purpose.

" (b) Rs. 48,573."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether special text-books intended for adult education have been prescribed for the jails and also whether instructors in the jails are trained or untrained and if trained from where? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is for jails and not for general adult education scheme. There are courses intended for teachers who have to impart education to prisoners in jails and there are training centres for that and the teachers have to undergo training there."

SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM :—" சிறையில் இருக்கும் கைதிகளுக்கு கல்வி போதிப்பதற்கு மற்ற சாதனங்களைவிட சினிமாப் படங்கள் மிகவும் எளிதாகவும் படிக்கத்தெரியாதக் கைதிகளும் புரிந்துக்கொள்ளும் வகையில் இருக்கும் என அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் அறிவார்களா ? அப்படியானல் இம்முறையில் இனி கையாள அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" கனம் அங்கத்தினர் அவர்கள் சொல்லும் யோசனையை பரிசிலனை செய்து பார்க்கிறோம்."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether general education includes moral instructions to prisoners and, if not, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether Government would take steps to give moral instructions to the prisoners? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir, there are moral and religious instructions for the prisoners once a week. This is given by voluntary agencies."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" More often persons who are convicted of offences are sentenced to periods of less than six months. Do the Government realize that spending money on giving elementary education to these prisoners who are to be released within a short period is a mere waste? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is why it is not attempted on a general scale and it is being experimented only in two places, Tiruchirappalli and Cannanore, as I have already stated."

SRI K. T. RAJU :—" சிறையில் இருக்கும் கைதிகளுக்கு கல்வி வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கப்படுவதாகச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அந்த அளவில் வேலூர் சிறையில் இருக்கும் பெண்களுக்கு கல்வி வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கப்படுவது உண்டா என்பதைக் கேட்க ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" இந்த விஷயங்களில் ஆண்களுக்கும் பெண்களுக்கும் வித்யாசம் காட்டுவது இல்லை."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" Sir, in the field of ethics of punishments the retributive or punitive theory which was holding away all these years has been given up all the world over and the modern tendency is to reclaim prisoners and convert them into

useful members of society. Therefore, will the Government come forward with comprehensive schemes for the mental and moral development of prisoners in our State?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"That is the attempt we are making to reach that ideal. But there are certain hardened prisoners and however much we may attempt they are incorrigible. That also will have to be taken into account."

Provision for Music in jails

9 a.m. * 2206 *Q.*—SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether music is permitted in jails; and

(*b*) whether the Government have considered the question of providing gramophones and radio sets in prisons for the benefit of the prisoners?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"(*a*) Yes, Sir. Music is permitted in jails as part of religious ministrations or concerts or Harikatha Kalakshepams.

"(*b*) All Central Jails in this State are in possession of a radio set each being gifts either from Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies or philanthropic persons or other societies. Some jails have also gramophones and records received as gifts from similar sources."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—"Are prisoners allowed to sing in jails? If so, may I know what kind of songs they sing?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"We cannot attempt to suppress the musical inclinations of anybody even though he may be physically imprisoned. I am sure each will have his own way of singing and his own songs to sing. We cannot prescribe songs for him."

SRI K. V. RAMASWAMI :—"கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் பதில் சொல்லும்போது சிறையில் கைதிகள் சங்கீதத்தை அனுபவிப்பதற்கு வசதிகள் செய்து கொடுக்கப்படுவதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். கைதிகள் தாங்களே நாடகம் நடத்த முன் வந்தால் அது அனுமதிக்கப்படுமா ?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"It is being done now. As a matter of fact, I had an opportunity to witness a performance at Coimbatore and I may inform the House that the standard of the performance was very high and could be easily compared with that of any of the professional troupes in our State."

SRI P. SELVARAJ :—"Sir, may I inform the Government that as a result of the amenities given to the prisoners, they are repeating the crime and there is a tendency to court imprisonment? So, will the Government cut short the amenities given in jails?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"From my own personal experience I may tell the hon. Member that whatever be the amenities given in jails, nobody will be inclined to go to jail of his own accord."